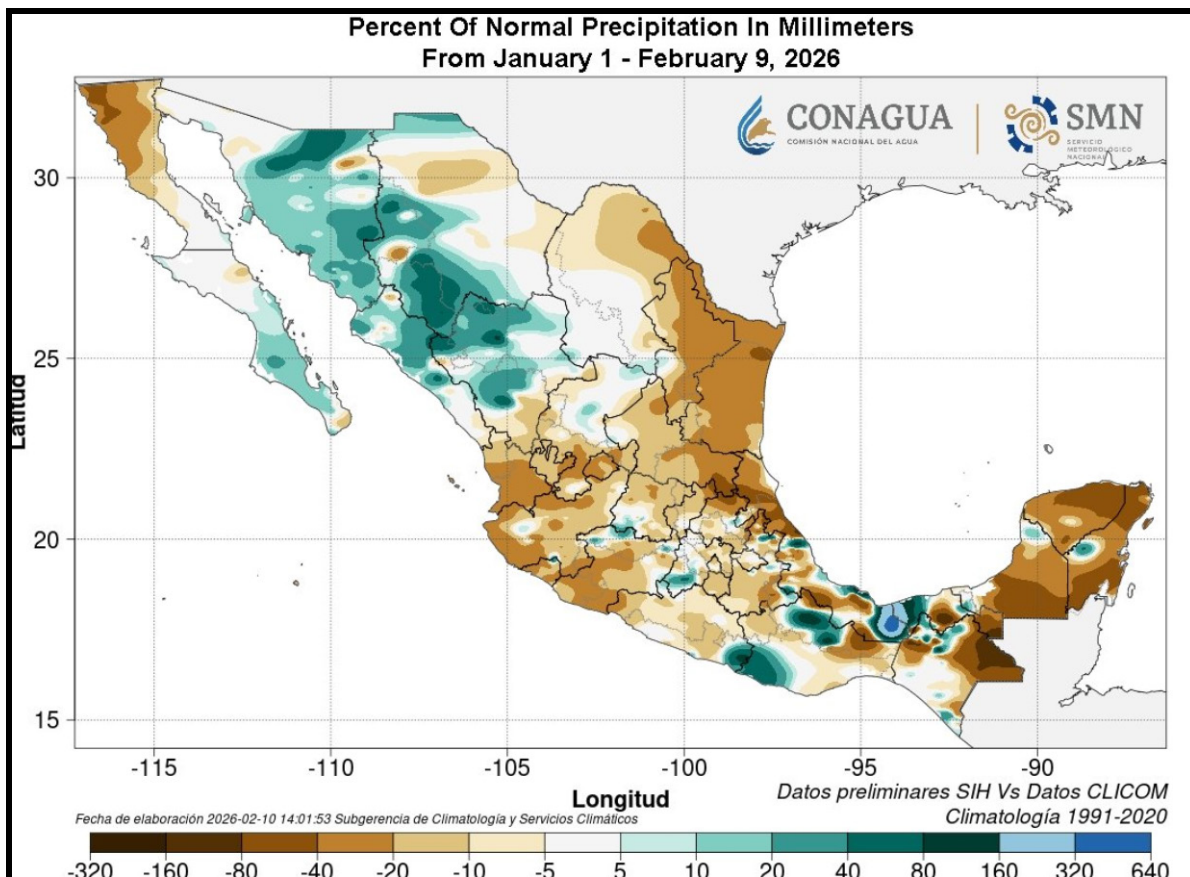


Mexico Drying Down; Timely Rain Needed In Coming Weeks

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, February 11 (World Weather Inc.) – Some winter crops are usually planted from late October or November into February across Mexico. Early season sorghum and cotton planting normally begins in late February and continues in March for northeastern parts of the nation. *While timely rain and leftover moisture from last year's monsoon supported good early-season planting, a large section of the country outside the northwest and pockets in the southeast trended drier than usual since the first of the year. The moisture profile remains relatively favorable despite the lack of rain, though the need for timely precipitation is increasing.* Precipitation will remain limited for at least another week for much of the country. *Warm daytime temperatures will promote aggressive drying and may impact establishment and development rates in the driest locations. The need for more significant rain will increase later this month and early March for the later-planted crops.*

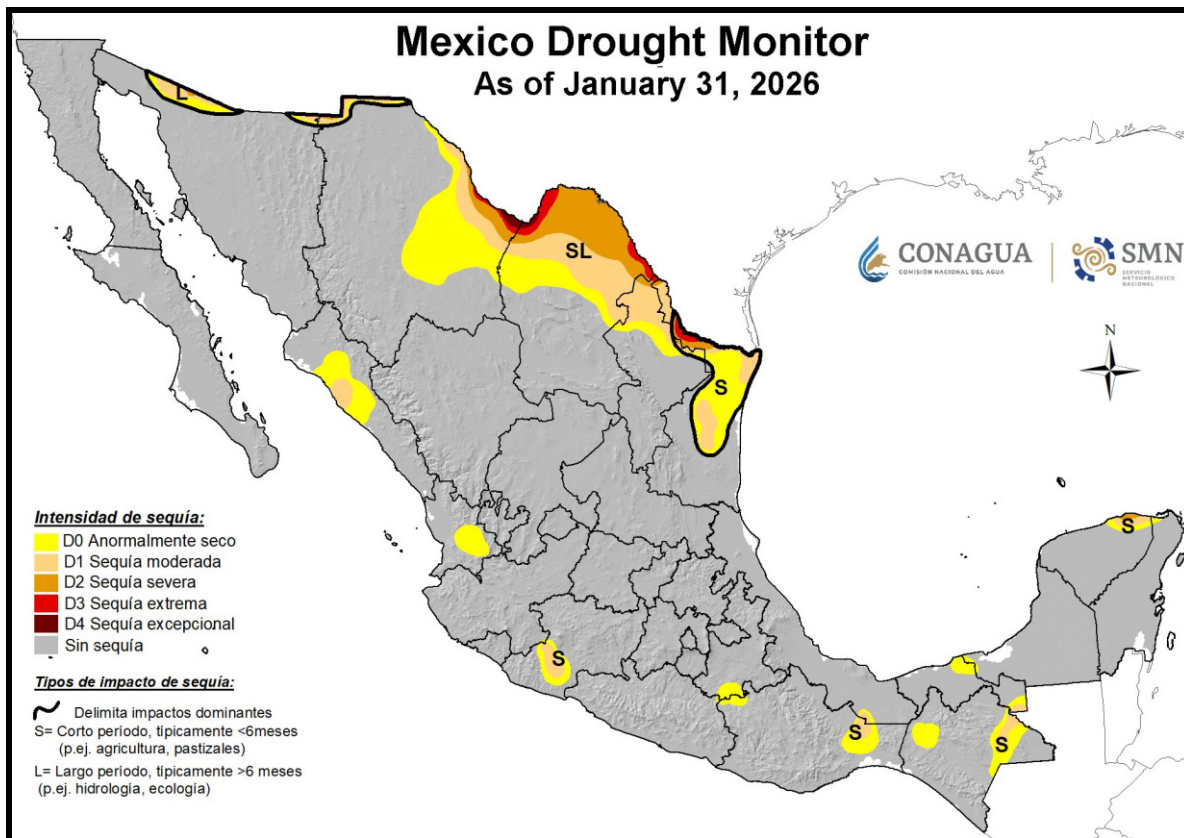
Sonora, Sinaloa, Durango, and neighboring areas of Nayarit and Chihuahua were wetter than usual from January 1 – February 9. These areas do not usually get much precipitation at this time of year, though the precipitation was welcome where it occurred. A few locations in Oaxaca, southern Veracruz, and neighboring areas in southeastern Mexico were also wetter than usual. The remaining locations in Mexico generally received near to below normal precipitation.



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Despite several locations trending drier than usual in recent weeks, a large section of Mexico was drought-free as of January 31. Only northern sections of Tamaulipas, Nuevo Leon, Coahuila, and Chihuahua, along with pockets in southern and west-central Mexico, were abnormally dry or under the influence of drought.

Prospects are relatively favorable for the winter grains, oilseeds, cotton, and other crops produced across Mexico. Timely rain last autumn and early in the winter supported generally good early-season planting and establishment. With drier weather since the beginning of the year in northeastern, central, and portions of southern Mexico, many areas are becoming too dry for ideal late-season planting and general development. The need for timely rain is increasing to ensure a good outlook for the winter crops and the planting of cotton and sorghum in the northeast.



Drier than normal weather is slated for a large section of Mexico through the middle of next week. Spotty rain will still occur at times in portions of central and southern Mexico. A few locations in Veracruz, Oaxaca, and neighboring areas will receive 0.25 to 0.75 inch of rain by next Wednesday morning. A disturbance will also bring rain to Sonora and neighboring areas Friday into Saturday. Northwestern Mexico will also receive light rain Tuesday. Sonora and immediate neighboring areas will receive 0.10 to 0.75 inch of rain with local amounts over 1.00 inch by next Wednesday morning. Other areas in Mexico will either be dry or not receive enough rain to counter evaporation. Drier than usual weather will likely persist for much of Mexico February 19 – 25, though periods of light rain will still occur in the north, east, and south.

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Irrigated crops will continue to develop and perform normally in the next couple of weeks. Dryland winter crops may not have the moisture to perform ideally and greater precipitation will be needed to ensure the best production. Cotton and sorghum planting normally occurs aggressively in late February and March and it would be helpful to get significant rain during that period of time especially in northeastern production areas and in southern Texas where dryness may be a threat to unirrigated early season development.

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